



Message from Councilwoman Peggy Neely

So far, 2010 has been a year full of tough decisions for all of us and that has been the case at City Hall, where we have worked to bring more accountability, transparency and jobs to our great community.

We started the year facing the toughest budget crisis Phoenix has ever seen, but with focus, determination and a lot of community input, we found a way to balance our spending and revenue, maintain property tax levels, preserve our excellent bond rating and still move forward with priority bond projects.

At the regional level, we were able to balance our countywide transportation budget and find ways to continue to offer critical transportation services. All in all, we are on the right track and it is my goal to keep us moving forward.

I've asked a group of local business leaders to help us find ways to grow our jobs base and recruit more companies to Phoenix. And even in this economy, I am pleased to welcome the regional headquarters of Choice Hotels to District 2. Likewise, congratulations are due to American Express for the recent expansion of its campus in our neighborhood. Soon, Gore will open its doors in northeast Phoenix while dealers in the Chauncey auto complex are also working through expansion efforts.

Combine these positive developments with the news that the city's SR 85 Solar Project will create more than 360 temporary and permanent jobs, and we see it is possible to grow our way out of hard economic times.

Also, we celebrated the opening of the world's first Musical Instrument Museum at Tatum and Mayo boulevards in April and saw the opening of Pulte and Lennar Homes' new residential project at 60th Street and Lone Mountain Road. Both of these projects are a testament to the people who led these efforts and their commitment to our community.

Speaking of commitment, we will soon welcome police officers to the new Black Mountain precinct facility at Cave Creek Road and Smokehouse Trail. Keep an eye out for details of the grand opening event to be announced soon.

Indeed, a lot has happened in the first six months of the year. We have been faced with many tough decisions, but we also have been the recipients of a lot of good news, and that's a trend I look forward to continuing between now and the end of the year.

Councilwoman Peggy Neely
District 2
City of Phoenix



I'm always impressed with how generous Phoenixians are with their time and energy. From March 2009 to March 2010, 226 people volunteered their time at 49 events through Hands on Greater Phoenix. I was very proud that one of the things we consistently heard during the community budget hearings over the last two years was that Phoenix residents are interested in volunteering their time to help maintain the city services that are important to them. Following the budget hearings, the Parks and Recreation Department created the My Phoenix - My Park program. From sponsoring a park to working as a park steward in our parks and preserves, to helping with Special Olympics competitions in Phoenix, My Phoenix - My Park offers volunteer opportunities for every schedule, interest and skill.

For a complete list of Parks and Recreation volunteer opportunities, call 602-495-0314 or go to phoenix.gov/volunteer. Together with the public's help, we will continue weathering the financial downturn and keep offering the great services that make Phoenix such a great place to live, work and play.

Volunteer today!
phoenix.gov/parks
 602-262-6862



City of Phoenix

Boards and Commissions

Many members of District 2 generously dedicate their time to serve on the city's volunteer boards and commissions. I would like to recognize them for their dedication to District 2.

Deer Valley Village Planning Committee

Eric Fredericks
 Lynn Lanoue
 James Norton

Desert View Village Planning Committee

Steven Bowser
 Genel Burwell
 Willie Collins
 John Dingeman
 Robert Erickson
 Claudia Garza
 Lou Lagrave
 Bill Lally
 Ron Lorch
 Allen Rice
 Shad Vermeesch
 Reginald Younger

North Gateway Village Planning Committee

Scott Freeman
 Phil Gardner
 Steven Murosky

Paradise Valley Village Planning Committee

James Ashley
 R.C. "Jake" Jacobsen
 Dennis Matrunola
 Fiona Mesko
 Richard Pennock
 Jennie Richardson
 Gary Soultanian
 Alan Sparks

Neighborhood Block Watch Oversight Committee

Wayne George
 Bryan Jeffries

Citizens Transit Commission

Brandi Hunt

All past and present volunteers please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for all that you do for our community. You help make Phoenix one of the best run cities in the country.



Protect Personal Items from Being Taken from Your Vehicle

Due to a recent spike in thefts at a local resort hotel, I thought I would take a moment to remind everyone of some simple precautions to help avoid being victimized by opportunistic thieves. While these simple pointers have been broadcast to the community from time to time, they bear repeating. (Desert Horizon Precinct, along with Councilwoman Neely, had great success a couple years ago with a media campaign on this topic.)

If you don't want personal items taken from your vehicle, even when it is locked and secured, keep them out of sight. Leaving a gym bag, department store sacks, expensive sunglasses, GPS units, etc., in plain sight is an invitation for a thief to break the window and steal your valuables. While it is not wise to ever leave anything of value (or items with your personal identification and home address) in your vehicle, at the very least, lock them in your trunk or covered cargo area. Also, park your vehicle in a well-lit area whenever possible, and be aware of your surroundings at all times. When walking to your vehicle from a grocery or department store, firmly hold onto your belongings and look for anyone behaving suspiciously at or around your vehicle. Don't become lax! Don't be easy prey! Take appropriate measures to thwart criminals!



In the unfortunate event that you become a victim of a crime, please make every effort to provide detailed information and include serial numbers of all your personal property. This will not only help if the police contact someone with property believed to be stolen, but it will allow us to return your property if and when it is recovered.

Fire Ban

Please help us keep our mountain and desert preserves safe from fires this summer. Our extremely hot, dry summer conditions in Phoenix make our beautiful outdoors particularly vulnerable to fires that can quickly get out of control. The following restrictions are now in effect in the mountain and desert preserves:

- Open, wood and charcoal fires are prohibited in any part of the Phoenix mountain preserves.
- Smoking outside of enclosed vehicles will continue to be prohibited.
- Propane or gas grills may be used, but only in established picnic areas.

The ban applies to Camelback Mountain, Papago Park, all areas of the Phoenix Mountains, South Mountain Park/Preserve, North Mountain and surrounding areas, Sonoran Preserve and the Deem Hills area. The fire ban does not apply to traditional city parks.

Residents whose houses border city preserve land are allowed to remove dry shrubs, brush and grasses and trim dead branches from trees within 10 feet of their property. This 10-foot buffer can help protect homes from brush fires in the adjacent preserve. For general information on the fire ban or for guidance before removing vegetation, residents can contact a park ranger at 602-495-5458 or natural.resources.pks@phoenix.gov. The Parks Department also has created a website with comprehensive fire ban information at phoenix.gov/parks/fireinfo.html.

While you are enjoying the beautiful mountain and desert preserves this summer in Phoenix, please do your part to minimize the fire danger and, of course, drink plenty of water while you are outdoors.



New Police Precinct

The new Black Mountain Precinct at Cave Creek Road and Smokehouse Trail is nearing completion. Contractors are currently working on some of the finishing details of the interior, such as plumbing fixtures, electrical fixtures, flooring and equipment. Substantial completion of the facility is expected sometime in June, with the Police Department starting to move furniture and equipment inside some time during late June or early July. Officers will be answering calls from the Black Mountain Precinct on or before Aug. 23, which is when the department's patrol reorganization takes place. If there is enough time available between move-in and the reorganization, police will have 63 area officers from the Desert Horizon Precinct working out of the station prior to the reorganization.

Stay tuned for details on when the Black Mountain Precinct grand opening will be held.

Pool Safety

Please protect your children around water! I'm sad to report that in 2010, the Fire Department has already responded to 19 drowning incidents and three fatalities. Of the 19 incidents, 16 involved children and three involved adults. **A few seconds is all it takes for a child to drown.** Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under age four in Arizona. Please don't let your child become a part of the statistics – **keep them in sight.**

Whether vacationing on a beach in San Diego, staying at a hotel with a pool, visiting relatives or friends who own pools, taking a tubing trip down a river or boating on a lake, water safety must be practiced wherever water is present.

For more information on water safety, call the Phoenix Fire Department Community Involvement Section at 602-262-6910 or visit phoenix.gov/fire/watersafe.html.

Shop Locally and Keep Our Tax Dollars in Phoenix

I received more than 700 e-mails and dozens of phone calls about the budget this year and heard directly from hundreds of people at the community budget hearings. In the end, we balanced the budget again this year, and the final budget adoption took place on June 23. I am hopeful that the city will meet the predictions and we will not have to go back and revisit the budget. An important way that we can all keep Phoenix moving forward and on the path to full recovery is to shop locally and keep our tax dollars in Phoenix, where they will do the most good for protecting the city services we need.



As you and your family make your vacation plans this summer, I encourage you to consider all of the great trips you can take right here in our own city and state. Staying in Arizona is not only a great way to stretch your budget, but the money you spend will go back into the local economy. Whether it's a daytrip to Prescott or Tucson or spending a long weekend visiting the Grand Canyon, there are many wonderful destinations right here in Arizona, and even in Phoenix, for you to choose from. We even have two world-class resorts in our own back yard, right here in District 2 - the Westin Kierland and the JW Marriott Desert Ridge.

The idea of "staycations" became popular over the last couple of years as the national economy slowed. But with so many attractions and destinations all across the city and state, taking a "staycation" this summer is still a great idea, especially with so much national attention being given to boycotting Arizona. So think about keeping your family and your tax dollars close to home this summer and "staycation." You will be investing in the local economy, which is more important now than ever.



Where is Your Money Going?

Phoenix voters overwhelmingly passed the extension of the Parks and Preserve Initiative in 2008. Here is a list of the various projects that are going on in District 2 when it comes to parks improvements and how these projects are being paid for. Now more than ever, it is important to know where the city's funds, especially your tax dollars, are being spent.

Projects being completed this fiscal year:

- Sonoran Foothills/Desert Discovery Center Acquisition. Paid for by impact fees.
- Desert Horizon - fitness station. Paid for by Parks and Preserve Initiative.
- Mountain View Community Center - ADA improvement study. Paid for by Parks and Preserve Initiative.
- Reach 11 Sports Field Lights in Phase 2 - eight fields. Paid for by Parks and Preserves Initiative.
- Sereno Park - sports field improvements. Paid for by monopole fee.
- Sonoran Preserve Priority 2C - 294 acres of preserve land. Paid for by Parks and Preserve Initiative and Growing Smarter Grant.
- Palomino Park - playground. Paid for by 2001 bond funds.
- Dynamite Park - ramada, shade structure, trees. Paid for by Parks and Preserve Initiative.

Projects currently scheduled for completion next fiscal year:

- Dynamite Mountain Ranch - new trailhead. Paid for by impact fees.
- Palomino Park - security lights. Paid for by Parks and Preserve Initiative and bond funds.
- Sonoran Preserve Priority 2D and 3a Acquisition - 1,138 acres of preserve land. Paid for by Parks and Preserve Initiative and Growing Smarter Grant.
- Mountain View Pool renovation. Paid for by Parks and Preserve Initiative and 2006 bond funds.
- Reach 11 Phase III. Paid for by Parks and Preserve Initiative.
- Reach 11 Trail and Recreation Enhancements. Paid for by art funds.
- Sonoran Boulevard Shared Use Path. Paid for by impact fees.

Musical Instrument Museum Opens

The first global Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) officially opened on April 24 and it is truly a treasure of District 2. I had the pleasure of attending the grand opening and getting to view the museum. Words alone can't do it justice and you really have to experience it yourself to appreciate everything it has to offer. The museum contains more than 3,000 instruments and artifacts from around the world and also is home to a 299-seat performance hall designed with spacious seating and state-of-the-art acoustics that will bring a wide variety of concerts and performances to the museum.

When you enter the museum, you receive a pair of state-of-the-art headphones that enable you to hear about the exhibits that you are viewing. As you walk up to the exhibits, the narration begins, and when you move on, so does the audio. It's a truly interactive experience that you can do at your own pace. If I had to pick just one, I would have to say my favorite exhibit is the Artist Gallery, which has the instruments of multiple musical legends. There is even a viewing space where you can watch the curators of the museum restore instruments and artifacts before your eyes.

The MIM would be a great way for the family to escape the summer heat and learn about the music of cultures from around the world. If you go, the museum is located in District 2 on the southwest corner of Tatum and Mayo boulevards, just south of the Loop 101. Adult admission is \$15, and with discounts for seniors and youth, the entrance to the museum does not cost much more than the price of a movie ticket!

Congratulations to Bob Ulrich and Bill DeWalt and his staff on this great project.





The Last Year in Pictures



(From top, left to right) Councilwoman Neely: at Outstanding Young Man/Young Woman of the Year Award Luncheon; presenting Gov. Brewer with Maricopa Association of Governments Continuum of Care Outstanding Leadership Award; presenting retired City Manager Frank Fairbanks with poster signed by District 2 residents at monthly Info & Issues breakfast; announcing SR 85 solar project with Mayor Phil Gordon; taking oath of office at 2010 City Council Inauguration; meeting with District 2 business Republic Services and Gov. Brewer; and touring District 2 business Community Tire and Auto with members of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce.

This newsletter is produced by Councilwoman Peggy Neely and the District 2 staff. If you have any questions, please contact the District 2 office at 602-262-7445 or via e-mail at council.district.2@phoenix.gov. We're here to serve you!